
**Background:** In many Indian cities, public water services only work a few hours a day and Non-Revenue Water (water leakage, water theft and other losses) is frequently higher than 50%, much higher than in Germany with 8.9%. Rapid urbanisation, the growth of population, economic development and the contamination of regional water resources have further led to a rapid increase of the supply deficit and severe problems for national health and welfare. As a result India and its Urban Local Bodies are determined to improve water quality, reduce water losses (i.e. less non-revenue water), improve service quality, install a durable water sector infrastructure that is specifically designed for a growing demand, reduce maintenance expenses and create an economically sustainable water supply. With water losses of 50% or more, water loss reduction programmes under the WaLUE concept will be many times more profitable than project investments to increase the water production (like extension of water abstraction and purification plants, river dams, water recycling units, desalination etc.).

**Objectives and Perspectives:** WaLUE’s main objective is to deliver an overall solution concept for water loss reduction, adapted to the situation of the Indian water supply sector and exemplarily executed for the municipality of Tiruvannamalai (a medium sized town in the Federal State of Tamil Nadu) within three years. For such a solution, the best available and suitable equipment tools and technologies shall be adapted and improved for durable functioning under the physical and socio-economic working conditions in the project area. A viable water utility business concept, equipped with a novel financing model for long-term value investment programmes shall be developed, verified and demonstrated. Know-how transfer to the local operators and decision-makers is included as an important WaLUE project activity in order to ensure the sustainable implementation of WALUE, especially against the background that sustainable operation and maintenance is one of the major bottlenecks in Indian water supply sector.

**Project coordination:**

IEEM @ university
Witten/Herdecke gGmbH
www.uni-wh-utm.de

**Project area:**

After a successful testing of WaLUE in a first pilot area in Tiruvannamalai, the concept shall spread all over the city. Since WaLUE will increase the cash-flow and improve the financial viability of any waterutility within a relatively short time, it is expected that financing models with bankable ROI can be realised. Considering the growing demand-supply gap for water, the need for water loss reduction programmes will increase continuously and the opportunity to replicate WaLUE in other Indian cities and emerging countries looks promising and is strongly interested.